

National Housing Party United Kingdom
Constitution.

PART I

INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 For the avoidance of doubt, throughout this constitution the masculine implies a person of either gender.
- 1.2 “EGM” means an Extraordinary General Meeting
- 1.3 “NC” Means the National Council
- 1.4 “Rules” means Rules made by the Directors under this Constitution
- 1.5 Where the context so implies, the singular shall include the plural
- 1.6 Headings shall not form part of the meanings of Articles
- 1.7 “Branch” means a branch or constituency association
- 1.8 PPERA means the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000

PART 2

NAME AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTY

Name

2.1 The Party exists as a Political Party registered with the UK Electoral Commission under the PPERA. The registered name of the Party under the PPERA shall be the National Housing Party United Kingdom (NHPUK) (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”).

2.2 The Party may also use such other names as may be registered from time to time with the Electoral Commission and may also use informally such other names as may from time to time be appropriate.

Objectives

2.2.1 The Party believes in creating a sustainable society where every U.K. citizen has somewhere they can call their own home at an affordable price.

2.2.2 In pursuit of these objectives the Party shall at all times adhere to the principles of the rule of law, liberty, democracy and respect for the human rights and the essential, traditional freedoms of the people of the United Kingdom and those under the protection of the United Kingdom.

2.2.3 National Housing Party United Kingdom believes in the principles of representative democracy at all levels, embracing acceptance of the widest possible participation by its members in the party's activities. We assert that our growth and development can therefore best be achieved by a "grassroots up" rather than a "top-down" approach with elected officials serving the membership by carrying out their elected roles to the best of their ability. The Party will espouse policies which:

- promote and encourage those who aspire to improve their personal situation and those who seek to be self-reliant, whilst providing protection for those genuinely in need;
- Favour the ability of individuals to make decisions in respect of themselves;
- seek to diminish the role of the State;
- lower the burden of taxation on individuals and businesses;
- ensure proper control over the United Kingdom's borders;
- strengthen and guarantee the essential, traditional freedoms and liberties of all people of the United Kingdom.

PART 3

ACTIVITIES OF THE PARTY

Activities

3.1 In furtherance of these objectives the Party may undertake the following activities:

- a) the development of a full range of policies for domestic and foreign affairs;
- b) the Party may stand in all levels of elections to public office within democratic electoral processes that take place within the United Kingdom or in such other places where it is lawful for the Party to stand for election, subject always to the proper use of resources belonging to the Party. NHPUK will be aiming to stand candidates in Great Britain and upon successful application we will apply for the Northern Ireland register. Then two separate sets of financial

accounts one for each register will be produced whenever they are routinely requested by the electoral commission.

3.2 In addition, the Party may participate and campaign in any referendum, including but not limited to national, regional, or local referendums.

3.3 The Party shall take up any seat to which it wins election regardless of any policy of the Party which espouses the abolition of such seat or election, subject always to the right of the Leader and the NC jointly to decide otherwise.

3.4 In the furtherance of its objectives, the Party may:

- a) raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any legal or natural person whatsoever in such manner and to the extent and limits established by law, including but not limited to: loans, subscriptions, donations, provision of work or materials in kind;
- b) publish, with or without charge, any document it sees fit in any format;
- c) employ and pay people to manage, supervise, organize and carry out the Party's aims, administer the Party and meet the Party's obligations under the law;
- d) purchase, lease or rent property deemed necessary to carry out the Party's objectives and to conduct the Party's administration and to make arrangements for the management of any such property acquired;
- e) carry out or refrain from carrying out any lawful act as may be deemed appropriate for the attainment of the Party's objectives and the proper administration of the Party;
- f) enter into contracts for the supply of goods, employment and services;
- g) undertake any or all lawful activities under the Companies Acts.

PART 4

Organization

National Council

4.1 There shall be established a committee known as the National Council (hereinafter "the NC") which shall function as the principal management and administrative authority of the Party.

4.2 The duties, powers and responsibilities of the NC shall include (but are not limited to):

- a) ensuring that the Party works towards the achievement of the objectives set out in Article 2 above in an efficient and judicious manner;
- b) managing the Party's funds, structure and employees;
- c) advising the Party Leader on political matters;
- d) approving the Party's policies and manifestos;
- e) ensuring that the Constitution of the Party is in accordance with the laws of the United Kingdom;
- f) managing and conducting the Party's disciplinary procedures;
- g) making or amending from time to time such Rules of Procedure as it deems appropriate for the efficient conduct and administration of the Party and for the discharge of its responsibilities under this Article and under company law for the efficient running of the Party and the attainment of its objectives.

4.3 NC may from time to time make rules concerning the organization of such Party structures which are not provided for in this Constitution.

National Council Composition

4.4 The NC shall normally be composed of the following voting members:

- a) no more than 12 Party members elected to the NC;
- b) the Party Leader (who may be an elected member);
- c) the Party Treasurer (who may be an elected member);

4.5 The NC may from time to time appoint further non-voting ex-officio members as it deems necessary for the efficient running of the NC.

Party Leader

4.6.1 Under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 all registered parties must have a Party Leader. The Party Leader shall give political direction to the Party.

4.6.2 The Party Leader may, at his discretion, form such advisory groups as he deems appropriate to advise him on any matter pertinent to the exercise of his

functions, with the agreement of the NC.

4.6.3 The Party Leader:

- a) Shall have the right to be a full member of all sub-committees and working groups set up by the NC;
- b) shall, subject to the approval of the NC, in the event of a refusal to approve the appointment, the Party Leader may request that the matter be referred to an EGM of the party;
- c) shall make or approve national statements of the Party's policies and the manner of their communication; and
- d) may, if necessary, subject to the approval of the NC, appoint a Party Chairman;

Election for the post of Party Leader can be conducted by postal or digital ballot, of all paid up members of the Party "in good standing".

4.6.4 The Leader's term of office shall run for three years. This term may be extended for such time as may be deemed necessary upon the NC passing a motion by a two-thirds majority to enable the Leader to stay in post for a further 6 months. The Party Leader may be elected for successive terms.

4.6.5 A leadership election shall be called:

- a) in the event of the Party Leader's death, incapacity or resignation; or
- b) on the passing of a vote of no confidence in the Party Leader by the NC if this is endorsed by an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Party; or
- c) upon the Party Leader's completion of his term of office.

Such election shall be held within 60 days of the completion of the Leader's term of office.

4.6.6 The NC may from time to time as it deems appropriate make rules for the calling and conduct of elections for the post of Party Leader.

4.6.7 A Party Leader shall communicate his decision to resign in writing to the NC, who must then summon an emergency meeting of the NC within 28 days.

4.6.8 If there is only one valid nomination for the post of Party Leader the candidate so nominated shall be declared elected as Party Leader without the need for a ballot. Any contested election for the leadership shall be decided by a simple majority of the votes cast. Those eligible to vote shall be members "in good

standing” of the Party on the date when the election is called, subject always to the restrictions on voting set out in the final paragraph of Article 4.1.2 above.

4.6.9 When a vacancy in the leadership occurs due to the Party Leader's death, incapacity, resignation or removal following a vote of no confidence, the procedure for a leadership election shall be initiated by the NC.

Party Treasurer

4.7.1 The NC shall appoint a Party Treasurer to the NC. The post of Party Treasurer is required under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 and the name of the Party Treasurer must be registered with the UK Electoral Commission.

4.7.2 The Party Treasurer shall establish and chair a Finance Committee to be responsible for managing the NHPUK finances and reporting these to the NC.

4.7.3 The Party Treasurer will prepare annual accounts and present them at the annual Business Meeting at the party conference. The Party Treasurer will be responsible for complying with all statutes and requirements of the Electoral Commission applicable to financial reporting and probity.

4.7.4 The Party Treasurer's term of office shall be three years, which may be renewed; he may be removed before the end of his term by not less than a two-thirds majority vote of the NC.

4.7.5 The Party Treasurer may, subject to the approval of the NC, appoint Deputy Treasurers to assist with the tasks described above.

4.7.6 The Party Treasurer will be made a signatory of any Branch, Constituency Association or Regional bank accounts.

4.7.7 The Party Treasurer will ensure that Branch, Constituency and Regional Treasurers report any proceeds from fundraising.

4.7.8 The Party Treasurer must consider and either approve or decline applications by candidates, Constituency Associations, Branches, regional groups for approval of financial transactions or party funding for specific party activities in line with the

Party financial planning and budgets.

Further Appointments

4.8.1 The NC shall appoint a Nominating Officer, as required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000, who shall control the registered Party descriptions and emblems and be responsible for the appointment of Deputy Nominating Officers as appropriate.

4.8.2 The NC may from time to time create such further posts as it deems necessary for the more efficient exercise of its duties under this Constitution and appoint persons thereto.

4.8.3 The NC may from time to time invite any person it deems appropriate to attend any NC meeting in whole or in part.

4.8.4 The NC may create standing committees when appropriate. These include a Finance Committee, a Discipline Committee, a Standing Orders Committee and a Policy Committee. The NC may from time to time establish other committees as it deems necessary.

THE PARTY CHAIRMAN

Status and duties

4.8.5 The Party Leader may appoint a Party Chairman to oversee internal party operations, if necessary, this appointment shall be subject to NC approval.

4.8.6 The Party Chairman upon approval shall become a member of the NC, if not already an elected member of it.

4.8.7 The Party Chairman shall chair meetings of the NC in the Party Leaders absence, they shall chair the Annual Business Meeting, Disciplinary Appeals and any Extraordinary General Meetings that may be called.

4.8.8 The Party Chairman shall be responsible for maintaining accurate databases of membership and for safeguarding such databases within the terms of data protection legislation.

Conduct of NC meetings

4.9.1 The Party Leader, or in his or her absence the Party Chairman shall preside as Chair of each NC meeting. If both the Party Leader and Party Chairman or another member of the NC, nominated by the NC present may preside as the Chairman of the meeting (Chair) of the meeting.

4.9.2 The Chair of the meeting conducts the proceedings of the meeting according to rules and regulations.

4.9.3 The Chair can suspend or adjourn a meeting in order to maintain order and decorum even if some participants protest.

4.9.4 The Chair can give a ruling to settle any point of order. His ruling will always be binding on all the members present at the meeting.

4.9.5 The Chair has the authority to decide the order of priority of speakers.

4.9.6 The Chair has full authority to restrain irrelevant or unparliamentarily language used by the members. He can stop prolonged discussion on a matter.

4.9.7 The Chair has the power to adjourn the meeting in accordance with the rules.

4.9.8 The Chair has the power to expel an unruly member and get him ejected.

4.9.9 The Chair has the power to appoint two scrutinizers to scrutinize the votes given on the poll and to declare the result of poll.

4.9.10 The Chair has the casting vote in the instance of Equality of votes

Decision making at a meeting

4.10.1 Questions arising at a meeting of the NC shall be decided by a majority of votes.

4.10.2 In all proceedings of each voting member of the NC must not have more than one vote.

4.10.3 In case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

Decisions without a meeting

4.11.1 The NC may take a unanimous decision without a meeting of the NC by indicating to each other by any means, including without limitation by Electronic Means, that they share a common view on a matter. Such a decision may, but need not, take the form of a resolution in Writing, copies of which have been signed by each member of the NC or to which each NC member has otherwise indicated agreement in Writing.

4.11.2 A decision which is made in accordance with Article 4.7 shall be as valid and

effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting duly convened and held, provided the following conditions are complied with:

4.11.3 Approval from each NC member must be received by one person being either such person as all the NC members have nominated in advance for that purpose or such other person as volunteers, if necessary (“the Recipient”), which person may, for the avoidance of doubt, be one of the NC members;

4.11.4 Following receipt of responses from all of the NC members, the Recipient must communicate to all of the NC members by any means whether the resolution has been formally approved by the NC members in accordance with this Article 19.2;

4.11.5 The date of the decision shall be the date of the communication from the Recipient confirming formal approval;

4.11.6 the Recipient must prepare a minute of the decision in accordance with Article 4.8.

Minutes

4.11.7 The NC must cause minutes to be made in books kept for the purpose:

4.11.8 of all appointments of officers made by the NC members;

4.11.9 of all resolutions of the Party and of the NC members; and

4.11.10 of all proceedings at meetings of the NC and of the NC members, and of committees of NC members, including the names of the NC members present at each such meeting;

and any such minute, if purported to be signed (or in the case of minutes of NC member meetings signed or authenticated) by the chair of the meeting at which the proceedings were had, or by the chair of the next succeeding meeting, shall, as against any NC members, be sufficient evidence of the proceedings.

4.11.11 The minutes must be kept for at least three years from the date of the meeting, resolution or decision.

NC Elections, Terms and Eligibility

4.12.1 The first NC shall be appointed by the Party Leader; appointed members shall serve a term of 12 months. At the end of this term of office elections for positions on the NC shall be conducted in accordance with the Articles contained hereinafter.

4.12.2 Elections to the NC shall be conducted in accordance with rules laid down by the NC and shall take place annually, with results announced at the party conference.

4.12.3 Elections to the NC shall be conducted in accordance with rules laid down by the NC and shall take place annually, on a date to be announced, together with the number of vacancies and the latest date for the receipt of nominations, with results announced at the annual Party Conference.

4.12.4 The resignation of a member of the NC shall either be evidenced in writing signed by the resigning member and sent or given to the Party Leader, or given orally. If given orally, the Party Chairman shall write to the resigning member inviting him to confirm or to withdraw his resignation.

4.12.5 The resigning member shall reply to such invitation within fourteen days of the posting of the letter. In the absence of a reply from the resigning member within that time he shall forthwith be deemed to have resigned from the NC.

4.12.6 Should a vacancy occur between elections, the NC may invite a candidate from the immediately preceding NC election to fill the vacancy until the next annual elections when the position shall be filled by election, subject always to the willingness of the invitee to serve. Members joining the NC in this way shall have the same rights as elected members.

Constituency Associations, Branches, Regional Groups

4.13.1 The NC may establish, suspend, or disband branches or other means of organization as the NC may from time to time deem necessary. Such constituency associations, branches or organizations may only be established with the written authority of the NC which may delegate such authority to the Party Leader.

4.13.2 Members can apply to the NC for approval to form a Constituency Association, Branch, Regional Groups or organizations.

4.13.3 All Branches must have a minimum of 5 party members (in good standing) whose residential address is within the same local authority who agree to form a local Branch to be approved by the NC. Of those 5 members each Branch must have a separate Chairman and Treasurer.

4.13.4 A Constituency Association requires 3 party members (in good standing) whose residential address is within a single constituency to agree to form an Association. If a Constituency Association engages in any financial activity, opens a bank account or wishes to apply for party funding for a specific activity then the Constituency Association must have a Treasurer and Chairman.

4.13.5 Regional Groups must consist of 3 or more Branches within that geographical Region of the United Kingdom who agree to form a Regional Group. If a Constituency Association engages in any financial activity, opens a bank account, or wishes to apply for party funding for a specific activity then the Constituency Association must have a separate Treasurer and Chairman.

4.13.6 Committee positions for Constituency associations, Branches, Regional Groups and other organizational group within the party such as the position of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, or any other committee position that maybe required at any time shall have a term of 12 months. After 12 month's elections must be called where any member (in good standing) of that group within the party can apply.

4.13.7 Only members of the Constituency association, Branch, Regional Group or other organizational group can vote in Constituency association, Branch, Regional Group or other organizational group committee elections.

4.13.8 In all proceedings of each voting member of the Constituency association, Branch, Regional Group or other organizational group must not have more than one vote.

4.13.9 In case of an equality of votes, the chair may have the casting vote.

Financial Compliance

4.14.1 The Party Treasurer must be made a signatory on all Constituency Associations, Branch or Regional Groups bank accounts.

4.14.2 Constituency Association, Branch or Regional Group Treasurers must report all donations, proceeds from fundraising activities and fees made to the Constituency Association, Branch or Regional Group to the Party Treasurer.

4.14.3 Constituency Association, Branch or Regional Group Treasurers must seek authorization from the Party Treasurer to use Party funding for any activity or purpose. They must make no payment and make no contractual agreements for goods, services or for any purpose without first receiving authorization from the Party Treasurer.

4.14.4 Constituency Association, Branch or Regional Group Treasurers must produce an annual report of accounts to be submitted to the Party Treasurer at a date specified by the Party Treasurer. Failure to meet this obligation will result in instant dismissal from the Constituency Association, Branch or Regional Group Treasurer role.

4.14.5 National Housing Party United Kingdom will ensure that the party's details that are registered with the Commission are kept up to date. We will inform the Commission of any changes to registered officers within 14 days of the change and any other changes within 28 days

Part 5

PARTY MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility

5.1 Membership of the Party shall be open to any natural person who shares the objectives and core beliefs of the Party and who agrees to abide by this Constitution and any Rules which may from time to time be made by the Party and who have not been excluded from membership by virtue of rules made under Article 5.2.1 or Article 5.2.2.

5.1.1 Members are considered to be in "good standing" if at any given moment:

- a) their subscriptions are up to date; and
- b) they are not subject to any suspension or exclusion by the Party either from elected office or from standing as a candidate of any sort in any election; and
- c) they are not subject to any form of suspension or restriction as to their membership of The Party.

Exclusion

5.2.1 Notwithstanding anything in Article 5.1 of this Constitution, the NC may from time to time make Rules of Procedure concerning the refusal of or exclusion from membership of persons or classes of persons whose admittance to membership of the Party would, in its opinion, be inimical to the interests of the Party.

5.2.2 The Party Leader (or, in his absence, his designated deputy) shall, without reservation or qualification, be entitled, subject to the approval of the NC, to refuse to admit any person to membership. Where it is deemed appropriate brief reasons will be given for any such refusal.

5.2.3 Any person applying for or renewing membership of the Party shall, at the time of applying for or renewing that membership, certify that he is not a person disqualified from membership under Article 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 above. Renewal of membership may be treated by the Party as if it was an application for membership for the first time. The Party Leader (or, in his absence, his designated deputy) shall, without reservation or qualification, be entitled, subject to the approval of the NC, to refuse to renew the membership of any person and may exercise this power without giving reasons for the same, if he deems it appropriate so to do.

5.2.4 Any person to whom membership is refused under either Article 5.2.2 or 5.2.3 may appeal against that decision within 28 days of notification thereof being sent to him. Such an appeal shall then be heard within a reasonable time by a panel composed either of the Party Leader and two elected members of the NC or, at the discretion of the Party Leader, by the Party Leader and two persons independent of the Party; provided, in the case of an application to renew membership, that such right of appeal shall only extend to those who were members “in good standing” at the time of the application for membership or renewal of membership as the case may be. The Appeal panel shall give an opportunity to both the Party Leader and the Appellant to be heard. The Appeal Panel, in its discretion, may at the conclusion of the appeal publish the reasons for its decision, but is not bound to do so.

5.2.5 Members who are “in good standing” shall be entitled to vote in all relevant internal Party elections or ballots, provided that no new member shall be entitled to vote in any such election until 28 days have elapsed from the commencement of his membership

Revocation of membership

5.3.1 If, after becoming a member of the Party, a person

- a) joins another political organization (whether registered with the Electoral Commission or not) or any organization membership of which the NC has declared to be incompatible with membership of the Party; or
- b) without the authority of the NC, sets up or has set up or has aided and abetted the setting up of another political party, whether registered with the Electoral Commission or not; or
- c) is later found already to be a member or former member of another political party or any organization which the NC has declared to be incompatible with membership of the Party; or
- d) stands against a National Housing Party United Kingdom candidate in any election; or

e) is found to be a person who has been expelled from the Party

the NC shall revoke their membership forthwith. Any person whose membership is revoked under this Article may appeal against that decision within 28 days of notification thereof being sent to him. Such an appeal shall then be heard within a reasonable time by a panel composed either of the Party Leader and one elected members of the NC or, at the discretion of the Party Leader, by the Party Leader and two persons independent of the Party.

Exceptions

5.4.1 In exceptional circumstances the Party Leader may, with the agreement of the NC, cause to be admitted to membership any applicant who would otherwise be prohibited from membership.

5.4.2 Persons not otherwise eligible for membership (other than those subject to exclusion under Article 5.2.1 or 5.2.2 hereof) under the provisions of this constitution may, at the discretion of the Party Chairman, in consultation with the NC, be admitted to Associate Membership of the Party. The NC may make rules as to the rights and duties of Associate Members.

5.4.3 The NC may from time to time make such rules as it deems appropriate concerning the employment by the Party and/or those elected to public office of persons falling within the ambit of Article 5.2 above.

5.4.4 Upon being employed, all employees must sign a certificate that they are not a person who falls within the ambit of Article 5.2 above.

Subscriptions and terms of membership

5.5.1 The NC shall from time to time set such annual subscription fees as it deems appropriate and may define and set differential subscriptions for different categories of membership as it may from time to time deem appropriate.

5.5.2 By entering into membership, the Member agrees that at all times he will abide by the terms of this Constitution and the Rules of the Party. Any member who is in breach of this constitution or the rules made thereunder may be subject to the disciplinary procedures set out in Article 11 and any Rules of the Party made under this Constitution.

5.5.3 Members of the Party are deemed by their entry into membership to agree not to do or omit to do any act (as the case may be), the commission or omission of which either:

- brings the Party into disrepute; or
- is intended to damage the Party's interests; or
- damages the Party's interests; or
- breaches any other disciplinary rule which the NC may from time to time deem appropriate to make.
- anyone who promotes undemocratic terrorist slogans or organizations will be expelled.

5.5.4 Any member whose annual subscription has not been received by the party within 14 days of the end of the month in which their membership subscription ran out shall be regarded as having resigned their membership.

5.5.5 The NC may from time to time as it deems appropriate make rules concerning affiliation to the Party by other organizations. Such affiliated bodies shall not enjoy any voting rights under the Constitution.

PART 6

Party Conference

6.1 A Party conference will be held annually, at a time, date and place decided by the NC. Party conferences may take place digitally if necessary.

6.2 All Party members in good standing will be eligible to attend the Party conference.

6.3 All Party Members eligible to attend the Party Conference may apply to the NC and may apply for an additional guest ticket for a nonmember to attend with the party member. The NC can refuse, or revoke guest passes to the Party Conference at any time if they believe it is in the Parties best interests.

6.4 The Party conference shall include voting on motions on Party policy and strategy, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

6.5 Only eligible Party members shall be allowed to vote on motions at the Party Conference.

6.6 Motions carried shall only have advisory force and will be listed for discussion by the NC within 3 months of the motion having been carried.

6.7 Motions must be submitted by the deadline determined by the NC prior to the party conference. Motions not put forward in advance by the deadline may not be voted on at the Party conference.

6.8 The Party shall hold a Business Meeting at the Annual Party Conference, at such place and at such date and time as the NC may determine. Only Party members "in good standing" may vote at the Business Meeting and at the Annual Conference.

6.9 The Business Meeting will be open only to Party members "in good standing". Its business shall be:

- a) to receive reports from the Party's leaders and officers; and
- b) to receive and note the Party's accounts, which are required under company law.

6.10 All motions at the Party Conference and Business Meeting may be passed by a simple majority of those voting.

Part 7

EGM/ AGM

7.1 The NC may also summon other special conferences or EGMs for specific purposes, which will be open to all Party members "in good standing". The NC may from time to time make rules for the convening of and the procedures for the conduct of such conferences.

7.2 The Party Leader shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM), giving members a minimum of 28 days' notice, if requested to do so by application in

writing from at least thirty percent (30%) of the Party's duly registered membership.

7.3 Each such application shall include a written statement, accompanied by the names, membership numbers and signatures of each of the members who support the application for an EGM. These signatures can be added electronically.

7.4 Each such application shall set out the business to be dealt with at the EGM and the agenda of any such EGM shall be restricted to that business and to matters arising.

7.5 Upon receipt of a valid application or petition the NC shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Party to be held within three months of such receipt.

PART 8

DISCIPLINE

Jurisdiction

8.1 The Discipline Committee of the NC shall have jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to Party Discipline. The NC may from time to time as it deems appropriate make Rules for the composition of discipline panels and management of matters of discipline and appeals, for the conduct of hearings, appeals, for the procedure and evidence to be used by the Committee.

8.2 All Disciplinary hearings and appeals shall be conducted with proper regard for the rules of natural justice to ensure that any member subject to such proceedings receives a fair hearing at each stage of the disciplinary or appeals procedure.

Complaints

8.3 Any member "in good standing" may refer the conduct of any other member to the NC who shall act in accordance with the rules made under Article 8 and the rules of natural justice.

8.4 Thereafter the NC shall likewise act in accordance with the rules made under Article 8 and the rules of natural justice.

Remedies

8.5 Upon the conclusion of any Disciplinary Hearing the Discipline Committee may:

- a) issue oral or written advice to the Respondent Member as to future conduct;
- b) give the Respondent Member a written caution as to future behavior;
- c) suspend the Respondent Member from attending constituency association meetings for a specified period;
- d) suspend the Respondent Member from membership of the Party for a specified period;
- e) suspend the Respondent Member from elected Party office and/or candidature for elective office for a specified period;
- f) expel the Respondent Member from membership for a specified period or permanently;
- g) take any other reasonable and proportionate action that it deems to be warranted by any particular circumstances;
- h) take no action; or
- i) if the member is elected to public office, remove the Party Whip.

The Discipline Committee shall at all times exercise its powers with proper regard for the principle of proportionality. The Discipline Committee shall provide a report of all disciplinary hearings and appeals to the NC upon their conclusion.

Right of appeal

8.6 Any member disciplined under Article 8.5 shall have the right of appeal against such order as is made thereunder. Such appeal shall be dealt with in accordance with the Rules of the Party concerning Discipline.

8.7 The NC may cause any disciplinary panel to be chaired by an Independent Chairman and may appoint such a chairman who need not be a member of the Party. The NC shall cause an appeal hearing to be chaired by an Independent Chairman and may appoint such a Chairman who need not be a member of the Party. No person who sat on a disciplinary hearing at first instance may be a member of the appeal panel for the matter at hand.

8.8 In addition to the Rules mentioned in Article 8.1 the NC may from time to time as it deems appropriate make rules as to the qualifications required for appointment

as an Independent Chairman.

Emergency powers

8.9 In cases of exceptional gravity and urgency the Party Leader may, of his own motion, exercise any of the powers set out in Article 7.5 except that under 7.5 (f) above in respect of any member, with due regard to proportionality. The Party Leader shall, within twenty-four hours of so acting, notify the NC of his action.

8.10 Upon being so notified the NC shall convene as soon as possible an Emergency Disciplinary Panel composed of 2 voting members of the NC or an independent chairman appointed in accordance with the rules made under Article 8.7 and 8.8

8.11 The Emergency Panel may:

- a) confirm the order of the Party Leader; or
- b) confirm the order of the Party Leader but order that the matter be placed before an ordinary Discipline Panel as soon as possible for a full hearing; or
- c) make any order permitted by this Constitution; or
- d) revoke the order of the Party Leader on the grounds that the action was either:
 - (i) inappropriate having regard to the circumstances; or
 - (ii) excessive having regard to all the circumstances; or
 - (iii) not supported by the facts. In that event the Party Leader may within fourteen days of the findings of the Emergency Disciplinary Panel renew the complaint under the ordinary disciplinary procedure.

8.12 It shall be no defence to any allegation laid under this Article that the Party member was ignorant of the Constitution or any Rule made thereunder.

PART 9

CANDIDATES

Approved candidates lists

9.1 The Party shall establish lists of approved candidates for elections to public office. The NC may from time to time make such rules as it deems fit for the establishment of such approved lists. Persons holding elective office shall have no automatic right to reselection or to a place on such approved candidates lists.

9.2 Any person who seeks to be placed on such approved candidate lists shall make a written application and, without exception, shall in such application make a full disclosure of any material fact, political or personal (whether or not the material fact arose before or after this constitution came into force), that has or may have a bearing on their suitability for selection as a candidate and shall provide full details in writing of the same to the NC. The NC shall issue guidance on disclosure.

Duty of disclosure

9.3 Once selected, candidates remain, without reservation or qualification, under a continuing duty fully to disclose to the NC any material fact, political or personal (whether or not the material fact arose before or after this constitution came into force) that has or may have a bearing on their suitability to stand as a candidate and shall provide full written details of the same to the Party Chairman.

9.4 Any failure to disclose such a material fact shall be a matter in respect of which disciplinary proceedings under Article 7 hereof may be initiated against the candidate. The Party Leader or the Party Chairman shall automatically refer such a matter to the NC who may then act under Article 7 and the rules made thereunder.

Suspension and removal

9.5.1 The NC may suspend any candidate from the approved list or remove any candidate from a list of candidates to be nominated or having been nominated, if, in his opinion the inclusion and possible election of that candidate will or may damage the reputation or interests of the Party.

9.5.2 The fact of such suspension shall be notified forthwith to (a) the Party Leader and (b) the candidate.

9.5.3 Thereafter the NC may proceed to determine whether or not the candidate shall be removed from or restored to the list of approved candidates or remain nominated by the Party.

9.5.4 Once a candidate is finally removed from the list of approved candidates or his nomination is withdrawn according to law, he automatically loses all rights to be the selected candidate and the association, branch or region concerned shall select a new candidate.

9.5.5 A candidate who is removed from the approved candidates list or whose nomination is withdrawn shall have the right to an appeal according to rules made by the NC pertaining to candidates.

Selection of candidates

9.6.1 The NC may from time to time as it deems appropriate make rules concerning all matters relating to the selection, training, nomination, ranking, conduct, removal and organization of candidates.

9.6.2 All candidates standing on behalf of the Party in any election to public office must be paid-up members of the Party “in good standing” and on the Party's list of “approved candidates”, held at Head Office.

9.6.3 In the case of a by-election (other than local government by-elections and other by-elections to local public office) the selection of a candidate will be made by the NC in consultation with the constituency association, branch or regional group.

9.6.4 The selection of candidates for local government by-elections and other by-elections to local public office shall be the responsibility of constituency associations or branches to be approved by the NC.

Codes of Conduct

9.7.1 The NC may from time to time as it deems necessary and appropriate make:

- a) Codes of Conduct for those holding elective office in the Party's name;
- b) rules defining the nature of the Party Whip, the circumstances in which the Party Whip may be removed and the consequences and the sanctions which may be applied when the Party Whip is removed or the elected member resigns the Party Whip.

9.7.2 It shall be the duty of any member of the Party who is elected to any elective office:

- a) to abide at all times by any such Code of Conduct and the Rules drawn up under Article 8.4.1;
- b) at all times to behave in a manner becoming to such elective office

Any breach of such Code of Conduct, Rules or failure to observe Article 8.4.1 (b) may be treated as a matter falling within Article 7.5.

9.7.3 The NC shall refer any breach of any Code of Conduct or Rules made under Article 8.8 to the Disciplinary Committee according to the provisions of Article 7 whereupon those provisions shall be followed as if the matter was an ordinary matter pertaining to discipline.

9.7.4 Notwithstanding any legal waivers, immunities, or dispensations granted by virtue of a candidate's election to public office, the NC shall have the right to regard all undertakings signed by candidates prior to their election or subsequent to it as morally binding and binding under the Rules of the Party and shall have the right to remove the Party's whip from, deselect, refuse to reselect or to expel from the Party any member who is in breach of any such undertaking, under this Article.

PART 10

THE CONSTITUTION: APPROVAL AND AMENDMENT

10.1 This amended constitution shall come into force immediately following a declaration of its approval by members voting according to the requirements of the constitution in force at that time.

10.2 Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed and made at any time in accordance with this Article. Such amendments shall only come into force after a postal ballot of the membership has been held in which not less than two-thirds of members voted in favour of them.

10.3 Such amendments shall come into force seven days after the result of such an affirmative vote is declared.

10.4 Such a ballot shall be held

- a) if proposed by the NC and approved by a two-thirds majority of those voting; or
- b) at the request of thirty five percent or more duly registered Party members in good standing communicate their proposal for such amendment or amendments in writing to the NC.
- c) if 6 or more constituency associations or branches which have communicated their proposal for such amendment or amendments in writing to the NC.

10.5 Any constituency association or branch requiring a vote to be taken on a proposed amendment shall file with the NC a certificate that the majority of members at a properly constituted Extraordinary General Meeting or Annual General Meeting of the constituency association or branch voted in favour of such an amendment.

10.6 The NC shall have the right to put separate and distinct elements or clauses amending the Constitution to separate votes for the approval of a two-thirds majority of members voting in a digital or postal ballot.

PART 11

Dissolution of the party

11.1 A decision to dissolve the Party can only be proposed at a National Council meeting and can only be carried with a majority vote to dissolve the Party.

11.2 The dissolution shall take effect from the date of the National Council majority vote to dissolve the Party and the members of the Council shall be responsible for the winding up of the assets and liabilities of the Party.

11.3 Any property remaining after the discharge of the debts and liabilities of the Party shall be divided equally among the members of the Party, or as they shall direct.

11.4 Members £1

PARTY RULE BOOK

12.1 Any Rules made under this Constitution shall be read in conjunction with it and where the Rules are repugnant to the Constitution, the latter shall prevail.

